

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239364

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND FOR POSSIBLE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD

REFERENCE: (A) LONDON 15222; (B) STATE 198568; (C) STATE
166401

1. IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL GSDR SIGNALS, INCLUDING REAFFIRMATION OF A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN A LETTER FROM SIAD TO PRESIDENT FORD, THE USG DECIDED LAST SUMMER TO RESUME A DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAM, AND AT THE SAME TIME AGREED TO SEND SOMALIA 10,000 TONS OF DROUGHT RELIEF GRAIN. HOWEVER, SINCE SOMALIA HAS CONTINUED TO OPPOSE US POLICIES AND HAS ALIGNED ITSELF WITH THE USSR ON EVERY ISSUE DESPITE PUBLIC CLAIMS OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND PRIVATE PROTESTATIONS OF A DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS, WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED WITH ANY DEVELOPMENT AID PROJECTS. ADDOU HAS BEEN SO INFORMED. LOUGHRAN HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO SIAD AS WE HAVE TO AMBASSADOR ADDOU: WE STAND READY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, AND OUR GRAIN SHIPMENT IS A CONCRETE SIGN OF OUR WILLINGNESS. WE HAVE SO FAR LOOKED IN VAIN FOR A CONCRETE SIGN THAT SOMALIA VALUES IMPROVED RELATIONS.

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ISSUES:

NONALIGNMENT: GSDR HAS CONTINUALLY OPPOSED USG POSITION IN

MULTILATERAL FORA, ESPECIALLY ON KOREA. IN PAST THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN CUBAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO. IN AUGUST LOUGHRAN WAS TOLD GSDR WOULD NOT OPPOSE US ON PUERTO RICO AT 31ST UNGA. HOWEVER, SINCE SOMALIA NOT ON COMMITTEE OF 24 AND SINCE WE DO NOT EXPECT ISSUE TO BE RAISED IN GA, THIS IS AN EMPTY GESTURE.

FTAI: AT THE TIME OF THE LOYADA BUS INCIDENT IN FEBRUARY GSDR ACCUSED US OF COLLUSION WITH THE FRENCH. SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC DIFFERENCES ALTHOUGH SIAD OPPOSES (AND WE SECRETLY SUPPORT) A POST-INDEPENDENCE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE. WE HAVE MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE ON THE FTAI ISSUE. IN YOUR STATEMENT BEFORE THE CLARK SUBCOMMITTEE YOU SAID THAT THE USG SUPPORTS THE PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE AND WE ENCOURAGE THE STATES OF THE AREA TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE LONG-TERM INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: SIAD IS APPARENTLY ACTING AS MOSCOW'S STALKING HORSE IN CALLING FOR A MEETING OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN HIS MESSAGE HE CLEARLY MEANT THE USG WHEN HE REFERRED TO THE EFFORT OF THE "TRADITIONAL ALLY OF RACISM" TO FURTHER "IMPERIALIST AIMS" AND CALLED ON AFRICA TO "ADOPT A STRATEGY TO COUNTER THIS IMPERIALIST RACIST CONSPIRACY."

SHIP VISITS: WE HAVE REGULARLY REQUESTED A SHIP VISIT TO SOMALI PORTS AS A WAY OF TESTING THE NON-ALIGNMENT OF THE GSDR. NO USN SHIP HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO CALL IN SOMALIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

US EMBASSY COMPOUND: WE HAVE FINALLY BEGUN PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF THE US EMBASSY COMPOUND IN WHICH WE BEGAN CONSTRUCTION A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, ONLY TO HALT AT GSDR REQUEST. WE HOPE THAT WHATEVER THE STATE OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONS, WE WILL AT LEAST BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THIS PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM.
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HOWEVER, PROGRESS IS VERY SLOW.

MARINE SECURITY GUARD IVERSON: ON AUGUST 26 THE NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICE (NSS) ARRESTED IVERSON AFTER HE HAD STRAYED INTO THE NSS COMPOUND IN A CAR DRIVEN BY A SECRETARY FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY. IVERSON UNFORTUNATELY AT FIRST GAVE A FALSE NAME AND THUS GAVE THE GSDR AN ISSUE ON WHICH TO HANG A REQUEST FOR HIS TRANSFER.

HOWEVER, THE DECISION TO INSIST ON SUCH A TRANSFER, AND
ESPECIALLY THE DETENTION OF A DIPLOMATIC AGENT (MS GUARDS
CARRY BLACK PASSPORTS IN MOGADISCIO) FOR 28 HOURS WITHOUT
ALLOWING HIM ANY CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY IS THE MOST

RECENT EXAMPLE OF THE HARASSMENT OF OUR DIPLOMATS. KISSINGER

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